

The Law and Medical Marijuana

The Tenth Amendment and the recent Justice Department announcement that federal prosecutors should no longer pursue cases against medical marijuana users who follow state law.

Each of you will choose a site to gather research. Below are a few sites to choose from. We will need a couple of current resources to add to the discussion. Then answer the discussion questions as best you can with the information you find. Then we will discuss as a class and relate to the current election.

Discussion Questions

1. What did the Justice Department tell federal prosecutors about medical marijuana last month?
2. What effect do you predict this change in policy may have on the thirteen states that currently have laws permitting medical marijuana use, as well as those five states which are considering such laws? Other states?
3. What are constitutional arguments for and against the Justice Department's change in policy?
4. What is your opinion on the Justice Department's announcement, and what is your constitutional reasoning?

Resources

Don't prosecute medical-marijuana use, Obama administration says

<http://features.csmonitor.com/politics/2009/10/19/dont-prosecute-medical-marijuana-use-obama-administration-says/>

U.S. Mellows on Medical Marijuana

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125595221988793895.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_MIDDLENexttoW_hatsNewsSecond

Debate grows over US ruling on marijuana

http://www.boston.com/news/health/articles/2009/10/20/debate_grows_over_us_ruling_on_marijuana/

States Pressed Into New Role on Medical Marijuana

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/26/us/26marijuana.html?_r=1&hp

Article II of the Constitution

<http://ArticleII.org>

The Tenth Amendment

<http://www.constitutionbee.org/user/StudentGuide.aspx?id=804>

Gonzalez v. Raich (2005)

<http://www.constitutionbee.org/user/StudentGuide.aspx?id=967>